

Remarks

Claims 16, 18, 20-30, 32, and 34-47 were pending, and claims 16, 30, and 47 have been amended while additional claims 28, 42, 44, and 46 have been cancelled.

Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

103 Rejections

Claims 16, 18, 20, 22-30, 32, 34, and 36-47 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bossemeyer (US Pat 6,490,444) in view of Paarsmarkt (US Pat 6,118,856). To the extent these rejections apply to the currently pending claims, Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

The independent claims 16 and 30 have been amended to recite that the communications device provides the indicator via a two-way on-hook signaling protocol and the off-hook recognizable dial tone. These claims have been further amended to recite that the computing device is either responsive to the two-way on-hook signaling protocol or otherwise automatically and periodically takes the communication line off-hook to check for the recognizable dial tone. Thus, the communications device covers either type of computing device of the user, either the on-hook version or the off-hook version of signaling. Such is supported by FIG. 2 and the related discussion.

The cited references do not disclose both types of signaling being provided by the communications device to account for either type of computing device. The references disclose either an on-hook manner of signaling for one system or an off-hook manner of signaling for another, but neither provides for both types of signaling to account for either type of computing device of the recipient of the message. Furthermore, to the extent Bossemeyer discloses a stutter dial tone being used to signal the message waiting, Bossemeyer expressly requires that the user manually take the phone off-hook and listen for the stutter dial tone rather than having the computing device automatically and periodically perform the off-hook check for the recognizable dial tone. Accordingly, claims 16 and 30 are allowable over the cited combination for at least these reasons.

Furthermore, claim 30 adds that that communication of the message waiting notification to the communications device utilizes encryption that is based on the

identifier of the communication line for which the signal is to be provided. Support for these recitations may be found at page 9, lines 7 and 8. Neither of the cited references provides for such encryption based on the identifier of the communication line such that claim 30 is allowable for this additional reason.

Dependent claims 18, 20-27, 29, 32, 34-41, 43, 45, and 47 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. Furthermore, one or more of these dependent claims recite additional features that are allowable over the cited references. For example, claim 47 states that the email message itself is communicated to the computing device over the two-way on-hook protocol in addition to the notification of the email when the computing device is responsive to the two-way on-hook protocol. Neither reference provides for communicating both a notification of a waiting email as well as the email itself over the on-hook protocol. Bossemeyer relies on the user to obtain the email manually after being notified of it by the signaling while Paarsmarkt provides no separate notification of the email by on-hook signaling such that claim 47 is allowable over the cited combination for this additional reason.

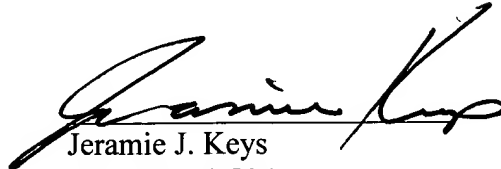
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 16, 18, 20-27, 29, 30, 32, 34-41, 43, 45, and 47 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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